

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-assisted method of facilitating communication between a plurality of computer software applications, comprising the steps of:

performing a storage operation from a first computer software application to
5 a first data element included within a data set, wherein the data set is shared by a plurality of computer software applications, the plurality of computer software applications comprising at least the first computer software application and a second computer software application; and

10 providing the second computer software application with a signal responsive to the storage operation.

2. The method of claim 1, comprising the additional steps of:

storing, from the second computer software application to the first data
element, an acknowledgment responsive to the signal; and

15 delivering, from the first data element to the first computer software application, a response corresponding to the acknowledgment.

3. The method of claim 1, comprising the additional step of storing, from the second application to the first data element, an acknowledgment responsive to the
20 signal, and wherein a response corresponding to the acknowledgement is not delivered to the first application.

4. The method of claim 1, comprising the additional steps of identifying at least one additional computer software application that is in communication with the data set and delivering the signal to the at least one additional computer software
5 application.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying information relating to the second computer software application is not required by the first computer software application.
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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the delivering step and the providing step are performed at a data transfer rate that is substantially equal to the highest data transfer rate available to any computer software application that is in communication with the data set.
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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data element is representative of a name, a dimension, a size, a command, a status, or a link.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data element corresponds to a link
20 to a second data element, each of the data elements includes attributes, and the

attributes of the second data element relate to and differ from the attributes of the first data element.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data element corresponds to a link
5 to a second data element, and wherein the link establishes a relationship between the data elements as members of a group.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the data set is capable of being copied,
revised, or deleted by a user.

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11. A computer-readable carrier containing computer instructions therein for
sharing data between a plurality of computer applications, the instructions including:
performing a storage operation from a first computer software application to
a first data element included within a data set, wherein the data set is shared by a
15 plurality of computer software applications, the plurality of computer software
applications comprising at least the first computer software application and a second
computer software application; and

providing the second computer software application with a signal responsive
to the storage operation.

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12. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, the carrier further including instructions for delivering, from the second application to the first data element, an acknowledgment responsive to the signal, and delivering, from the first data element to the first application, a response corresponding to the acknowledgment.

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13. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, the carrier further including instructions for the steps of identifying at least one additional computer software application that is in communication with the data set and delivering the second signal to the at least one additional computer software application.

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14. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, wherein the carrier further includes instructions that direct the delivering step and the providing step to be performed at a data transfer rate that is substantially equal to the highest data transfer rate available to any computer software application that is in communication with the data set.

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15. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, wherein the carrier further includes instructions for directing the first data element to be representative of a name, a dimension, a size, a command, a status, or a link.

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16. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, wherein the carrier further includes instructions for directing the first data element to correspond to a link to a second data element, each of the data elements includes attributes, and the attributes of the second data element relate to and differ from the attributes of the first data
5 element.

17. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, wherein the carrier further includes instructions for directing the first data element to contain a link to a second data element, and the link establishes a relationship between the data elements as
10 members of a group.

18. The computer-readable carrier of claim 11, wherein the carrier further includes instructions for permitting the data set to be copied, revised, or deleted by a user.
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19. A system for facilitating communication between a plurality of computer software applications, comprising:

means for performing a storage operation from a first computer software application to a first data element included within a data set; and

20 means for providing the second computer software application with a signal responsive to the storage operation;

means for delivering an acknowledgment responsive to the signal to the first data element; and

means for delivering, to the first computer software application, a response corresponding to the acknowledgment;

5 wherein the data set is shared by a plurality of computer software applications, the plurality of computer software applications comprising at least the first computer software application and the second computer software application.

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陈丽娟	女	40	医生	XX医院XX科	XXXX	
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